

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 PC-01
AID-05 OC-06 CCO-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 FBO-02 DHA-02
ORM-02 MCT-01 OMB-01 SCA-01 USSS-00 EUR-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /115 W
-----221615Z 039991 /46

R 221306Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3206

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1716

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJ: SECURITY SITUATION UPDATE

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 1577, B. ADDIS ABABA 1656, C. ADDIS ABABA 1685,
D. ADDIS ABABA 1690

SUMMARY: EPMG CAMPAIGN TO MAINTAIN OFFENSIVE POSTURE OF
REVOLUTION CONTINUING TO CREATE TENSE ATMOSPHERE IN ADDIS
ABABA AND SURROUNDING PROVINCES. DAILY ARTICLES IN ETHIOPIAN
HERALD REFLECTING CONSEQUENCES OF THESE ACTIONS. MAR 17,
TWO POLITICAL OFFICE FOR MASS ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS (POMOA)
CADRES REPORTEDLY ASSASSINATED IN SHOA PROVINCE. MAR 19,
67 "OUTLAWS" LIQUIDATED IN SIDAMO PROVINCE, 37 CONFIRMED
EPRP AGENTS ROUNDED UP ON VARIOUS SHOA AND BEGEMDIR
TOWNS, 24 "OUTLAWS" KILLED IN ARUSSI PROVINCE, AND JIJIGA
"MASSES" RE-
PORTED TO HAVE PLEDGED TO LIQUIDATE INFILTRATORS.
MAR 20 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED 27 ADDITIONAL
COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES ARRESTED IN ASSELA (ARRUSI), TWO
KILLED IN SHOA AND EIGHT EXPOSED IN ILLUBABOR PRO-
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VINCES, AND VARIOUS LABOR INCIDENTS (REFTEL C).
ATTEMPTED FIRE-BOMBING INCIDENT AT USIS, EVENING
MAR 20, AND EYE-WITNESS REPORTS OF OTHER SHOOTINGS
AND ARRESTS MORNING MAR 21, KEEPING LEVEL OF
TENSION HIGH IN ADDIS ABABA. END SUMMARY.

1. MAR 17 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED FUNERAL SERVICES

FOR TWO SHOA PROVINCE POMOA MEMBERS IN ADDIS ABABA. POMOA CADRES MENGESHA GELETA AND GETACHEW TADESE ALLEGEDLY ASSASSINATED BY "PAID ANARCHIST" AGENTS PREVIOUS WEEK. MENGESHA WAS POMOA PROVINCIAL REP AND GETACHEW AN ASSISTANT POMOA PROVINCIAL REP AT TIME OF DEATHS. MENGESHA, 26, HELD UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA AND HAD TAUGHT FOR EIGHT YEARS BEFORE HIS DEATH. GETACHEW, 27, RECEIVED UNIVERSITY TRAINING IN GERMANY AND PARTICIPATED IN STRUGGLE AGAINST "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY GROUP", ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS FEDERATION, BEFORE RETURNING TO ETHIOPIA.

2. MAR 19 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED KILLING OF 67 REACTIONARY "OUTLAWS" DURING OPERATION IN TWO SOUTHERN SIDAMO PROVINCE DISTRICTS OF BORENA AND ARERO. OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY SIDAMO PEOPLE'S MILITIA IN CONJUNCTION WITH SECURITY FORCES AND OTHER PROGRESSIVE INDIVIDUALS. DURING OPERATION MANY WEAPONS WERE ALSO CAPTURE. SAME DAY'S PAPER ALSO REPORTED ARRESTS OF 9 CONFIRMED AGENTS OF EPRP, EDU AND ELF IN WOLISSO (SHOA), 18 EPRP RECRUITS IN FITCHE (SHOA) AND 10 ANARCHIST PAID AGENTS OF EPRP IN AIZEN (BEGEMDIR). WILISSO GROUP CONSISTED OF SCHOOL TEACHERS, MIDDLE-LEVEL BUREAUCRATS, A STUDENT, AND A POMOA CADRE. ALL 9 CITED BY NAME. FITCHE GROUP EXPOSED BY "PROGRESSIVE" STUDENTS WHO THEN TURNED 18 EPRP RECRUITS OVER TO POLICE. AIZEN GROUP INCLUDED TEACHERS AND AGRICULTURE EXTENSION WORKERS.

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3. MEDIA ALSO REPORTED MASS RALLY AT JIJIGA IN WHICH RESIDENTS VEHEMENTLY DECLARED THEIR DETERMINATION TO LIQUIDATE THOSE WHO INFILTRATE COUNTRY WITH INSIDIOUS PLOTS THROUGH INSTIGATION OF AND ARMS GIVEN TO THEM BY "REACTIONARY RULERS OF A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY." STANDAR COLLECTION OF SPEAKERS FROM POMOA, PEASANTS' ASSOCIATIONS, KEBELES, AND WOMENS' ASSOCIATIONS ADDRESSED RALLY.

4. MAR 20 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED ARREST OF 27 COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES IN ARUSSI PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF ASSELA AND SEIZURE OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION. IT ALSO REPORTED TWO EPRP RECRUITS KILLED IN GURO (SHOA) AND 8 OTHERS EXPOSED IN ILLUBABOR. TWO EPRP RECRUITS REPORTEDLY RESISTED ARREST AND KILLED IN SHOOT-OUT. THOSE EXPOSED IN ILLUBABOR INCLUDED A KEBELE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN AND THREE TEACHERS. VARIOUS OTHER LABOR INCIDENTS REPORTED REFTEL C.

5. IN ADDITION TO INCIDENTS REPORTED IN MEDIA, THERE ALSO HAS BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO FIRE-BOMB USIS, EVENING MAR 20 (REFTEL D). THERE ALSO HAS BEEN INCIDENT AT ADDIS ABABA EDIBLE OIL FACTORY IN WHICH FIVE ATTACKERS KILLED BY SOLDIERS AND WORKERS MAR 21, ARRESTS MORNING MAR 21 AT DOWNTOWN HOTEL, AND CONTINUED DAILY REPORTS OF GUNFIRE HEARD IN CITY. RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED ADDIS HOSPITALS FILLED WITH GUNSHOT WOUND VICTIMS.

6. COMMENT: OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED REFTEL A STILL RELEVANT, ESPECIALLY OBSERVANCE OF UNOFFICIAL CURFEW CONSIDERABLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT BY MAJORITY OF ADDIS RESIDENTS. FREQUENCY OF INCIDENTS APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING AT SAME HIGH LEVEL OF PAST TWO WEEKS. TIENKEN
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